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No longer a diocese

THE DIOCESE
OF
MACKENZIE RIVER.



STRAIGHT FROM THE WOODS.

By Ven. Archdeacon Lucas.

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A LONELY MISSION ON THE MACKENZIE RIVER.

THE DIOCESE OF MACKENZIE RIVER.

ITS JUBILEE AND AFTER.

SAVE THE CHILDREN.



THE past year, 1908, witnessed the Jubilee of Missionary Work amongst the Indians of the Mackenzie River. It was in 1858 that Arch-deacon Hunter made his memorable journey into the Far North for the purpose of opening up that vast region to the preaching of the Gospel.

In reviewing the work accomplished during these 50 years among the Indians and Eskimo in the North, we, as Christian men and women, cannot but rejoice at the great things God has done through His servants.

The Diocese of Mackenzie River.

The Diocese, which is ten times as large as England, extends from Lat. 60° to the Arctic Ocean, with the Rocky Mountains as its Western boundary, and the Diocese of Keewatin on the East. **It is the most remote Diocese in the world**—its nearest mission post being situated 1,000 miles from a railway station, post office,

grocery store, doctor, and all that is denoted by the term civilization. The majority of its workers have to be content with three mails a year, and a yearly arrival of groceries and household supplies. Its mission station at Herschel Island is the most northerly in the British Empire.

Its Workers. The Diocese has been greatly honoured by God in His choice of men and women whom He has thrust out into this part of His great world-parish.

The Christian Church at home has been stirred to greater zeal and prayer and work in behalf of the greater harvest-field through the knowledge it possessed of the self-denying and successful labours of such men as Bishops Bompas, Young, and Reeve, of Archdeacons Kirkby and Macdonald, of Sim and others, who counted not their lives dear unto them if only they might proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ to those lonely sheep in the vast wilderness of ice and snow.

Results of the Work. These have been most encouraging. Instead of infanticide, of tribal fights and bloodshed, of murder of the old people, we see now children well cared for and orphans adopted, murder practically unknown, the sick and dying carefully tended, and the aged maintained by their relatives until their death.

God's Day is honoured by the Christian Indians, and His Word and House loved.

The whole Bible has been printed in Tukudh, the New Testament in Slavi, besides the Prayer Book, Hymnals, and Instruction Books in both languages. Three of the Tukudh

Indians have been ordained as Deacons. A Boarding School for Indian children is in full operation, and its influence is limited only through lack of funds and workers.

Surely all this is matter for praise and thanksgiving to Him in Whose Name it has been carried on.

**A serious
Outlook.**

But now, owing to various causes, the present is a time of great anxiety, and the outlook is a most serious

one. The chief causes are—

1. The Church Missionary Society is gradually withdrawing its help and grants towards the work in the Far North.

2. The Canadian Church, upon whose shoulders the burden therefore falls, is confronted with the most serious and complex problem of dealing with the spiritual conditions and welfare of the thousands of emigrants who are pouring into that country. The work amongst the Indians is consequently made to suffer through lack of support.

It, therefore, becomes imperative for us to appeal to many friends of the Indian in the home land to come forward with help in procuring men and means for the continuance of the work. It would be a disastrous thing for us to abandon the work so favoured and blessed by God in the past.

**Our Chief
and most
Urgent
Needs.**

1. Increased support for our Diocesan Boarding School for Indian children at Hay River.

This school was planned and started by the late revered Bishop Bompas about 18 years ago, and is doing a splendid work for the children, 32 of whom are now in residence. These Indian children

are drawn from all parts of the Diocese. Their nomadic life in the woods makes it impossible to teach and train them satisfactorily, as they are approachable for such a short period each year. If the present generation is to grow up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" it can only be accomplished through the medium of the Boarding School. It is from their ranks, too, that we must look for the native catechists and teachers of the future.

The workers at the School have bravely struggled on year by year, in spite of many difficulties and discouragements. One chief difficulty which confronts them at all times is that of supplying food for their large family. As they are situated 1,600 miles from their base of supplies, imported provisions are necessarily very expensive, and add materially to the cost of maintenance.

Then again, there are two large Roman Catholic Boarding Schools in the neighbourhood, fully manned by priests, lay brothers, and nuns, ever ready to take in any child brought to them. **The closing of our School would, therefore, prove most disastrous for the future of our work, as many of the children, being orphans, would become inmates of these convents and lost to us for ever. This must not be!**



HELP US

These are the children who, when they learned that a Church was to be built, voluntarily gave up their much coveted semi-weekly meals of rice for several months together, so that the money thereby saved might be used towards its erection. Such children are surely worth helping.

£200 is needed at once to meet current expenses.
£10 per annum will support a child who is partly kept



HELP US TO SAVE THESE CHILDREN.

by a Government grant, while £20 would entirely support a child not so provided for. Will not some friends, or Sunday Schools, or Gleaners' Unions come to our help now and save our Indian children?

It would be a most grievous thing if, after all the thought and prayer and sacrifice of those who have carried on the work here, the School should have to be abandoned.

2. Support of Two Native Catechists at Fort Norman.—The Indians of

this Mission remained true and steadfast to our Church during the long period of three years, although they were left without a Missionary. This was largely due to the zeal and earnestness of the two Native Catechists who held their flock together during that critical time. These men conduct services regularly among their fellow tribesmen in the woods. £10 will provide the necessary stipend of a Catechist there.

3. **A New Mission Station at Fort Smith**, which is situated at the entrance of the Mackenzie River Diocese. This place is now the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company. A police detachment is to be placed there, and its situation points to the desirability of its becoming the headquarters of the Diocese, owing to the increased facilities it enjoys for communication with the outside world. It is only some 600 miles from the railway and civilization in general, as compared with the 1,200 miles which separate Fort Simpson from those privileges. The work here will be mainly amongst English speaking people.

The probable cost of a Church and Mission House with enclosure would be from £300 to £400.

The above, then, are our chief needs!

It is hopeless to expect from the Indians any large measure of self-support. A hand-to-mouth existence is the only one possible for them in their present condition. Many of them are doing what they can, and among the Tukudh Indians the annual collection for Missionary purposes amounted to 150 dollars. May God grant that we who are so highly favoured at home, surrounded by every spiritual privilege, shall not be found false to ourselves, to our Church, to those noble men and women who have lived and toiled and died for the sake of those Indians, and, above all, to our beloved Lord Who has bidden us seek out and tend these scattered sheep of His in the lonely regions of ice and snow.

To leave them now would mean handing them over to the Church of Rome—to the undoing of the work of the past fifty years.

I am sure that when these facts are known and realised by

"those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in uncorruptness,"
they will determine, by His grace, that this shall not be !

Yours, in His service,

JAS. R. LUCAS,

Archdeacon of Mackenzie River.

This appeal is issued with the entire concurrence of the
Archbishop of Rupert's Land and the Bishop of Athabasca.

Contributions, whether of annual subscriptions or donations, may be sent to :

T. H. BAXTER, ESQ., Secretary Missionary Leaves
Association, 20 Compton Terrace, Islington, N. ;

REV. A. J. EASTER, St. Matthew's Vicarage, Croydon ;

W. E. GILLET, ESQ., Colyton, 114 Leigham Court
Road, Streatham, S.W. ;

REV. A. MORGAN, St. Mark's Vicarage, Kemp Town,
Brighton ;

ARCHDEACON LUCAS, Milton Cottage, Bounds Green
Road, Wood Green, N.

